

THE SUNNYVALE CRICKET CLUB

.... Play. Socialize. Unite.

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Honorable Mayor / Council Members
Sunnyvale City

Dear Mr. Mayor and Council Members:

I write this letter to bring your kind attention to an issue that is of concern to our Club, and to cricket in Sunnyvale.

Sunnyvale Cricket Club is one of the oldest cricket clubs in the Bay area with roots dating back to 1893. The club was then called the Wanderers. During the 1950s it was named the San Jose Cricket Club. In 1990, with the influx new high technology workers, a significant number of people became interested in playing cricket in the Bay Area. Our club, then named Silicon Valley Cricketers Club, benefited from this influx. As this influx raised the standard of the game, we began to look for a new ground with regulation-type cricket facility. In 1992, the Sunnyvale Mayor, the Council members, and the Park and Recreation Department unanimously consented to providing us with permanent cricket facility at Ortega Park, a privilege for which we are very thankful. We renamed ourselves the Sunnyvale Cricket Club, adopting the name of the city that provided us with the facility.

The new facility is one of the best grounds in the Bay Area and is an important factor in increasing the standard of the game. It is now on par with any first class cricket played else where in the United States and the rest of the world. Our club partnership with the Sunnyvale city has been extensively covered in many publications and magazines and it includes a cover story in India Today (an equivalent to Time magazine in India).

Cricket is not only a sport for us, but also a cultural icon. It is a game that we enjoy playing, and we consider it our duty to play it to the best of our ability and raise the honor of the sport.

However, over the past one year, a couple of soccer players that live close to Ortega Park have been raising issues of Cricket taking up the availability of fields for soccer usage. This has been going on for over a year since I have been elected President of Sunnyvale Cricket Club. Apparently, they have over 300 people that have signed a petition to reduce the number of hours available for Cricket play at Ortega Park.

I also believe that a certain Birdland Association has signed their petition. To our knowledge, Birdland Association is not associated with Ortega Park. Yet, the association has joined the petitioners. They claim that we plan to move into their park and other parks. This apparently is the reason for their support to the petitioners.

Visit us at www.sunnyvalecricketclub.org

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I now provide some facts to counter their argument. We have been in Sunnyvale for over 10 years and have not requested support at additional fields. Respecting the fact that we do use up around 20 Sundays in a year, our growing club membership has been sharing a facility in Morgan Hill with another club. In contrast, in addition to a soccer field in Ortega Park itself adjacent to the cricket location, there are a number of other fields with soccer facilities. (Our research summarized in the attached sheet indicates the number of fields available in the City of Sunnyvale and usage of Cricket versus Soccer and Baseball / Softball).

Our Cricket Club pays \$175 per day to reserve the field on Sunday. Fully aware of the fact that we do use up the ground for seven hours, we hasten our games as much as possible within regulation, so that we do not use the ground beyond the needed hours. The little league (Softball) and soccer players utilize the ground after 5 PM.

Cricket is not only our main sport but also an integral part of our culture and heritage. Our standard of cricket does not allow us to reduce the game time to less than seven hours. Clearly, when 33 fields allow soccer in the City and there is only 1 field for Cricket, the request from these folks that Cricket and its playing hours be reduced seems unreasonable. (According to my attached sheet, the percentage occupancy of Cricket in the City of Sunnyvale is 0.66 % and the percentage occupancy and usage of Soccer in the City of Sunnyvale is 95.33 %.) One version of Cricket called test cricket takes 5 days to be played. We do not have the time for that version of cricket. What we play is the shortened version of international cricket that lasts for seven hours. Two teams bat one innings of three hours each. There are breaks totaling to one hour. It is considered that this is the minimum time to maintain the high standard of first class cricket played in California. Keeping this in mind, it is not feasible for us to change the rules of the game. This would be the same as asking Baseball players to reduce the number of innings from 9 to 4 or asking a Golfer to play only 9 holes.


What we find especially inconvenient and objectionable is the fact that these folks stop by the ground at 5 PM when we are closing the game (sometimes it does go over by a few minutes despite our best efforts) every Sunday and cause havoc by disturbing the game. They yell, whistle and shout at everybody on the ground. It seems to me that they come there just to embarrass us in front of our visiting team and make a mockery of the game. They are also seen trying to recruit the little league coaches or any people present at Ortega Park to sign their petition. We make every effort to end the game by 5PM, and on the few occasions we do exceed the time by a few minutes; we try to amicably settle the issue with the folks waiting to use the field. What we object to is the demeaning statements open canvassing against us, and the consequent disrepute to this honorable sport.

Sunnyvale Cricket Club's infrastructure and ground facilities are praised by all other cricket clubs in Northern California and in fact Northern California Cricket Association proudly show cases our ground for major nation wide tournaments. We are aware that the City of Sunnyvale has a strong tradition of inclusiveness and multiculturalism. The city's support for the sport of cricket is one of the shining examples of this culture. We, the members of Sunnyvale Cricket Club, acknowledge and strongly appreciate this.

We have had a couple of meetings with the Staff of the City of Sunnyvale regarding the resident's concerns and willing to explore the options presented to us and we are also aware that the staff will be briefing you on the same. We are confident that the Council will continue this support and provide proper guidance on this issue in a fair and reasonable manner as quickly as possible to resolve this conflict.

Thanking you for your time and looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Ravi Pindiprolu
President

Cc: Robert Walker

Sunnyvale City Parks available for Field Reservations.

SITE	NUMBER OF FIELDS	NUMBER AND TYPE OF FACILITIES
Bishop School	2	West field: 1 soccer, 1 backstop
Braly School	1	East field: Jr. soccer, 1 backstop; Westfield: Jr. soccer, 1 LL diamond, 2 backstops
Cherry Chase School	1	soccer, 2 backstop
Columbia Middle School	2	North field: 1 soccer; South field: 1 soccer, 1 LL diamond, 1 backstop
Cumberland School	1	1 soccer, 2 backstops
Cupertino Jr. High School	3	North field: 2 LL diamonds, Jr. soccer; South field: *1 softball diamond, 1 soccer
De Anza School	1	Jr. soccer, 2 LL diamonds, 1 backstop
Ellis School	1	1 soccer, 2 backstops
Fairwood School	1	Jr. soccer, 2 backstops
Fair Oaks Park	1	*1 softball diamond, 1-90' diamond, 1 soccer
Hollenbeck Park	1	2 soccer, 3 backstops
Lakewood Park	1	* 1 softball diamond, Jr. soccer
Lakewood School	1	1 soccer, 1 LL diamond, 1 backstop
Las Palmas Park	1	1 soccer, 1 LL diamond
Murphy Park	1	1 bowling green
Nimitz School	1	1 soccer
Ortega Park	1	1 cricket pitch , *1 softball Jr. Soccer, 1-90" diamond, 1 backstop
Panama Park	1	1 soccer, 1 LL diamond, 1 backstop
Ponderosa Park	1	1 soccer, 1 LL diamond, 1 backstop
Ponderosa School	1	Jr. soccer, 2 backstops
Raynor Park	1	2 soccer, 1 LL diamond, 1-90" 1 backstop diamond
San Antonio Park	1	2 soccer, 1 LL diamond
San Miguel School	1	1 soccer, 1 backstop
Serra Park	1	1 soccer, 2 LL diamonds, 1 backstop
Stockelmeir School	1	1 soccer, 1LL diamond
Sunnyvale Middle School	4	East field: 1 softball diamond; North field: Jr. soccer; West field: 1-90" diamond; Track field: 1 soccer
Vargas School	1	1 soccer, 1 backstop
Washington Park	1	*1 softball diamond, 1 LL diamond, Jr. soccer
West Valley School	1	1 soccer, 1 backstop

Total number of fields available – 36 fields

Total venue within fields for soccer available – 33 fields

Total venue within fields for baseball/softball available – 50

Total for Cricket – 1

Year long availability of Baseball fields for reservation during weekend available

50 (Venues) divided by / 36 (Fields) * (multiplied by) 104 (Saturdays and Sundays per year) / (divided by) 100 (percentage)

= 144% (One hundred and forty four percentage)

Similarly for Soccer (using the same formula above)

33 / 36 * 104 / 100

= 95.33% (Ninety five point three three percentage)

Year long games scheduled for Cricket during the year in Sunnyvale City in 2003 and 2004. 24 games (including league and social and playoffs).

Percentage usage of Sunnyvale parks by Sunnyvale Cricket Club– 1 (venue - Ortega park) / (divided by) 36 (total fields) * (multiplied by) 24 (ONLY 24 Sundays used by Cricket Club per year) / (divided by) 100 (percentage)

= 0.66% usage during the whole year (Not even 1% of Sunnyvale City Parks are used by Cricket during the year)

The same formula could be used by providing the number of 365 days as base number but I would rather use a practical number of 104 which are the weekends and are reasonably expected as usage by sports folks – although I must say that Baseball and soccer people do use weekdays also to play games.